

OUR CITY FOREST

Choosing a Living Tree for the Holidays



Make your holiday greener this year by buying a living tree from a nursery and donating it to Our City Forest for planting afterwards.

Here are some important tips:

1. Choose an appropriate species that can be replanted by OCF (See below).
2. Gradually introduce your living tree to the indoor growing environment over three or four days via the garage or enclosed porch.
3. Locate your tree in the coolest part of the room and away from heating ducts.
4. **Water your tree slowly every day or every other day when the soil on top is dry. The warmer your house is, the more water it will need. Make sure it gets enough water to reach all the roots. You will know it has enough water when you see water draining out the bottom**
5. Leave inside no longer than 10-14 days.
6. Never add nutrients or fertilizers.
7. Carefully introduce tree back outside using the reverse of #2 above.

What to Buy

The following is a list of evergreen conifers that can make great holiday trees *and* are well suited for planting in the Santa Clara Valley. The trees that have the most potential to be replanted are the incense cedar, any of the true cedars, and some of the pines.

**IMPORTANT: TREES MUST BE IN A #5, #10, OR #15 CONTAINER
FOR YOUR TREE DONATION TO BE ACCEPTED.**

Preferred:

Calocedrus decurrens (incense cedar)

Cedrus atlantica (atlas cedar)

Cedrus brevifolia (cypress cedar)

Cedrus deodara (deodar cedar)

Cedrus libani (cedar of Lebanon)

Cupressus arizonica (Arizona cypress)

Pinus eldarica (afgan p.)

Pinus pinea (stone p.)

Pinus ponderosa (ponderosa p.)

Sequoia sempervirens (coast redwood)

Taxus baccata (english yew)

Taxus brevifolia (Western yew)

Torreya californica (CA nutmeg)

If you have any
additional questions,
please contact OCF
(408) 99-TREES.



Avoid if Possible:

Pseudotsuga menziesii (Douglas fir) – due to size, and soil & climate limitations.

Do Not Buy:

Pinus radiata (Monterey pine)- These trees are short lived and are susceptible to the pine pitch canker disease, so we cannot use them.